(d) The last date for receipt of applications from borrowers was 30th April, 2003 and no extension of time has been granted by RBI.

Taking over of IFCI by PNB

4671. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked Punjab National Bank to take over IFCI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether other banks were also considered for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indian Customs and Electronic Data Interchange System

4672. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) when Indian Customs and Electronic Data Interchange System (ICES) was started to accept custom documents;

(b) the progress made till now and the time by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(c) the percentage of consignments being cleared within three days as stipulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Indian Customs and Electronic Data Interchange System (ICES) was started in January, 1994 as a pilot project at Air Cargo Complex, New Delhi.

(b) EDI System has now been extended to 23 customs locations in the country so far. Customs Automation Process is an ongoing exercise which cannot